

Message Text

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53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

/045 W

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O 181433Z SEP 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8304

RUEVES CUSTOMS MIAMI NIACT IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 2343

ALSO PASS TREASURY FOR CUSTOMS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, ETRD, TD, US

SUBJECT: ENTRY INTO U.S. OF OFFICIAL TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

EXHIBITION MATERIALS FOR DALLAS STATE FAIR

1. I HAVE BEEN CONTACTED BY HIGHEST LEVELS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GOVERNMENT SEEKING ASSISTANCE IN FACILITATING ENTRY OF EXHIBITION MATERIALS FOR DALLAS STATE FAIR CURRENTLY HELD UP AT MIAMI PORT OF ENTRY BY CUSTOMS.

2. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IS VERY PROUD OF ITS UNIQUE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF STEEL BANDS AND PRE-LENTEN CARNIVALS, AND SEGMENTS OF THE TOP PERFORMING TROUPES ARE BEING SENT OFFICIALLY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ALONG WITH A TRADE EXHIBIT TO THE DALLAS STATE FAIR OPENING OCTOBER 1. I UNDERSTAND EVERY EFFORT WAS MADE IN ADVANCE CONSULTATIONS WITH A PRIVATE CUSTOMS BROKER IN DALLAS TO CONFORM TO ALL U.S. REGULATIONS BEFORE DISPATCHING EXHIBIT AND PERFORMANCE MATERIALS, BUT THAT A PROBLEM HAS ARISEN IN CONNECTION WITH APPARENTLY INADEQUATE DETAIL IN THE INVENTORY OF THE CARNIVAL COSTUMES, DETAIL PRESUMABLY REQUIRED TO FACILITATE ASSIGNING OF APPROPRIATE CUSTOMS DUTY RATE.

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3. WITHIN PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS I HAVE BEEN CONTACTED PERSONALLY BY THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER, AND OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SEEKING THE ASSISTANCE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN FINDING A WORKABLE MECHANISM FOR THE PROMPT ENTRY OF THE GOODS IN QUESTION.

4. ENTRY IS TO BE UNDER BOND FOR EXHIBIT PURPOSES ONLY AND THE GOTT IS UNDERTAKING TO RE-EXPORT OR DESTROY ALL ITEMS INVOLVED. FULL SHIPMENT IS 102 CASES AND TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS REQUIRE THAT SHIPMENT BEGIN MOVEMENT FROM MIAMI TO DALLAS BY TRUCK TODAY, SEPT 18, IN ORDER TO ARRIVE IN TIME FOR DALLAS FAIR. IN ADDITION TO CARNIVAL COSTUMES, OTHER PARTS OF EXHIBITION SHIPMENT UNDER BOND INCLUDE TRADE EXHIBIT GOODS, EXHIBIT PANELS AND CABINETS, STEEL DRUMS ("PANS") WHICH ARE THE MUSICALLY TUNED INSTRUMENTS OF THE STEEL BAND, AND RUM FOR THE TRINIDADIAN AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION AT THE FAIR.

5. IN VIEW OF HIGH LEVEL INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT HERE, AND FREQUENT PAST COURTESIES OF A SIMILAR NATURE ON THE TRINIDADIAN SIDE (E.G. ENTRY OF PUERTO RICAN TRADE EXHIBIT MATERIALS UNDER BOND IN RESPONSE TO USG REQUEST), REQUEST EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO FIND REASONABLE COMMITMENT TO PRESENT IMPASSE WHICH WILL NOT DELAY ARRIVAL FOR DALLAS FAIR OR INCUR DOUBLE HANDLING OR BROKERAGE FEES.

6. SINCE PROBLEM SEEMS TO CENTER AROUND CARNIVAL COSTUMES, I HAVE PERSONALLY THIS MORNING CONTACTED LEADER OF ONE OF TWO MASQUERADE GROUPS INVOLVED WHO IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO ME. COSTUMES ARE THOSE MADE FOR AND USED BY MASQUERADERS AT FEBRUARY 1975 PRE-LENTEN CARNIVAL HERE AND ARE NOT NEW COSTUMES WHICH WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT COMMERCIAL VALUE. COMPONENT MATERIALS INCLUDE METALLIC FILM, FOIL, ALUMINUM RODS AND SHEETS, WIRE, COTTON CHIFFON, BONDED KNITS, TRANSPARENT LAME, SILKS, AND TAFFETA, STRAW HATS, BEADS, SEQUINS, AND FEATHERS. I AM INFORMED THAT FEATHERS, BEADS, SEQUINS, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF FABRICS WERE ACTUALLY IMPORTED FROM USA, FROM CARL SCHWARTZ IN NEW YORK CITY.
RICH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTO02343
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750323-1217
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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